

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) An add/drop apparatus, comprising:

a channel selector configured to receive a plurality of channels that include a first channel and a second channel, the channel selector being configured to direct transmit the first channel to an add/drop node and the second channel to an output node when in a first channel mode and being further configured to direct transmit the second channel to the add/drop node and the first channel to the output node when in a second channel mode,

the channel selector being configured such that when the channel selector is in the first channel mode, a first alternate optical channel traveling from the add/drop node to the channel selector travels from the channel selector to the output node with a different bandwidth than the first channel directed to the add/drop node by the channel selector; and

a switch configured to receive a plurality of optical channels and to direct the optical channels such that the optical channels are received by the channel selector or such that the optical channels bypass the channel selector and are received at the output node, an optical path along which the channels travels from the switch to the channel selector being exclusive of an optical path from the channel selector to the add/drop node and also exclusive of an optical path from the channel selector to the output node.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the channel selector is configured such that a bandwidth of a channel directed to the add/drop node can be tuned.

40. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the channel selector includes ~~a bandwidth tunable filter module comprising:~~

a first optical filter element configured such that when the channel selector is in the first channel mode and the first optical filter element receives the first channel, the first optical filter element directs the first channel to the add/drop node with ~~to divert a channel from a beam such that the first channel has a first bandwidth, the beam including a plurality of the channels; and~~

a second optical filter element configured such that when the channel selector is in the first channel mode and the second optical filter element receives the first channel, the second optical filter element directs the first channel to the add/drop node with a second bandwidth ~~to divert the channel from the beam such that the channel has a second bandwidth, the~~ that second bandwidth being different from the first bandwidth.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the first optical filter element is arranged to move in conjunction with the second filter element.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:
an adjustment mechanism configured to position the first and the second optical filter element relative to the beam in accordance with a desired optical bandwidth of a diverted signal.

43. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the adjustment mechanism is further configured to position the first and the second optical filter element relative to the light signal such that the channel selector directs ~~transmits~~ the desired channel to the add/drop node.

44. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising:
a controller configured to operate the switch such that channels are directed to the output port when changing the apparatus between the first channel mode and the second channel mode.

45.-46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising:
one or more second channel selectors configured to receive the plurality of channels from the switch, each of the second channel selectors configured to direct ~~transmit~~ one or more of the channels to the add/drop node.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein one or more of the second channel selectors is a fixed channel selector.

49. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising:

an optical channel coupler configured to receive channels from the channel selector and from the one or more second channel selectors and to direct the received channels to the output port.

50. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the channel selector is configured to direct ~~transmit~~ a plurality of channels to the add/drop node when in the first channel mode.

51. (new) An add/drop apparatus, comprising:

a channel selector configured to receive a plurality of channels that include a first channel and a second channel, the channel selector being configured to direct the first channel to an add/drop node and the second channel to an output node when in a first channel mode and being further configured to direct the second channel to the add/drop node and the first channel to the output node when in a second channel mode,

the channel selector including

a first optical filter element configured such that when the channel selector is in the first channel mode and the first optical filter element receives the first channel, the first optical filter element directs the first channel to the add/drop node with a first bandwidth when the channel selector first channel mode, and

a second optical filter element configured such that when the channel selector is in the first channel mode and the second optical filter element receives the first channel, the second optical filter element directs the first channel to the add/drop node with a second bandwidth, the second bandwidth being different from the first bandwidth; and

a switch configured to receive a plurality of optical channels and to direct the optical channels such that the optical channels are received by the channel selector or such that the optical channels bypass the channel selector and are received at the output node, an optical path along which the channels travels from the switch to the channel selector being exclusive of an optical path from the channel selector to the add/drop node and also exclusive of an optical path from the channel selector to the output node.

52. (new) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the first optical filter element is arranged to move in conjunction with the second filter element.

53. (new) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising:
an adjustment mechanism configured to position the first and the second optical filter element relative to the beam in accordance with a desired optical bandwidth of a diverted signal.

54. (new) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the adjustment mechanism is further configured to position the first and the second optical filter element relative to the light signal such that the channel selector directs the desired channel to the add/drop node.

55. (new) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising:
a controller configured to operate the switch such that channels are directed to the output port when changing the apparatus between the first channel mode and the second channel mode.

56. (new) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the channel selector is configured such that a first alternate optical channel traveling from the add/drop node to the channel selector travels from the channel selector to the output node when the channel selector is in the first channel mode.

57. (new) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein:
the channel selector is configured such that when in the first channel mode, the first alternate channel is directed to the output node with a different bandwidth than the first channel directed to the add/drop node.

58. (new) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising:
one or more second channel selectors configured to receive the plurality of channels from the switch, each of the second channel selectors configured to direct one or more of the channels to the add/drop node.

59. (new) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein one or more of the second channel selectors is a fixed channel selector.

60. (new) The apparatus of claim 58, further comprising:
an optical channel coupler configured to receive channels from the channel selector and from the one or more second channel selectors and to direct the received channels to the output port.

61. (new) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the channel selector is configured to direct a plurality of channels to the add/drop node when in the first channel mode.